

**To:** Tyler, Patti[Tyler.Patti@epa.gov]  
**From:** Gray, David  
**Sent:** Thur 8/20/2015 3:48:26 PM  
**Subject:** Nav

## Navajo Water Tank – STATEMENT

The U.S. EPA is working closely with the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency to investigate a complaint about one tank which may have been vandalized after delivery. EPA is providing storage and delivery of water through a contractor. The Navajo Nation is responsible for distribution and operation of the water service and law enforcement within Navajo Nation.

Thirteen tanks were deployed to provide watering service within the Navajo Nation. Nine water of these tanks were deployed in the Shiprock area. These tanks were sourced from the water division of Triple S Trucking Company, an Aztec, N.M.-based tanker truck company. Prior to being used, the tanks were steam cleaned and inspected by a contractor. Water distributed by Triple S tanks, under contract to EPA, was provided by the Bloomfield Utility Department, the municipal water utility company for the City of Bloomfield, N.M.

Based on EPA surface water data collected following the August 5, 2015 Gold King Mine release, San Juan River water quality in the Navajo Nation has returned to pre-event conditions. This determination is based on a review of water quality data collected from August 7-15, 2015 at EPA's sampling point near Hogback, N.M. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye had a productive phone conversation on August 19 to review water quality data. Based on that conversation the President indicated that the Navajo Nation may re-open the San Juan River for irrigation purposes as soon as this weekend. It was also agreed on that call, that Friday August 21, would be the last day for EPA water deliveries for agricultural use on the Navajo Nation.

EPA will work closely with the Navajo Nation in the coming weeks to ensure that a long-term monitoring plan for the San Juan River is implemented. In addition, EPA is positioned to provide technical assistance in flushing irrigation ditches on the Navajo Nation.

Sent from my iPhone